



Fall Greetings from PSC

We have exciting news to share. This winter, PSC's Concord office will be moving to a new space in the same building. The new space is larger and will have more room for pairs to meet. We do not have a date for the move yet. We will share more details later this fall by email.

We are sad to be saying goodbye to staff member Zalma, who is leaving for graduate school. We will be introducing two new PSC team members soon.

In this newsletter, we are celebrating Dyslexia Awareness Month in October. To learn more about **dyslexia**, turn to page 4.

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You can find the meaning of words in **orange** in the Glossary on page 8.

News for Learners & Tutors

Books Completed

Challenger

Velia R. (5)

Confidence & Connections

Adriana C. (3L)

Belsys P. (2R)

Carla A. (2R)

Cathy C. (2L)

Dhondup W. (2L)

Eva R. (3L)

Grecia C. (2R)

Roberto G. (2R)

Journey to Success

Jihyun L. (5)

Julia H. (3)

Lhamo T. (2)

Linda L. (8)

Oksana D. (5)

Samira N. (2)

Wilson

Xavier O. (Step 1)

True Stories

Carla A. (Very Easy & 1A)

Short Stories in English

Nha D. (B2)

Literacy

Minnesota's

Phonics

Workbook

Daniel G. (2)

Straight Forward English: Verbs

Velia R.

Learning English through Short Stories

Jaime B. (1)

Off2Class

Yurany S. (Pre-Intermediate Curriculum)



Learner Accomplishments



Lillian L. attended and presented at a **Toastmaster** meeting!

Misty G. read three paragraphs from a 5-page article in front of a group of people!

Jaime B. is now more fluent in speaking English. He can talk to customers at his job and make them sandwiches.

Saddiqa I. completed her first word search ever!

Congratulations to Amy S., Byron D., and Grecia C. on getting a job!



PSC Reading and Talking Club

The Project Second Chance staff has had so much fun **hosting** our Reading and Talking Clubs this year! We thank our learners who joined us. We know it can be hard to get time for extra practice, **in addition to** tutoring.

The Reading Club looks at articles from Newsela, an online newspaper for adults improving their reading skills. The Talking Club brings together learners and tutors to talk about interesting things we all have in common!

Here are the dates for the rest of the year:

Reading Club: On Zoom

- Tuesdays, October 7 and 14
- Tuesday, November 4
- Tuesdays, December 2 and 9

From 12–1 PM

Talking Club: In Person and On Zoom

In Person:

- Wednesdays, October 1 and November 5
From 2–3 PM at 2151 Salvio Street, Suite 299, Concord

On Zoom:

- Thursdays, October 16 and November 20
From 4–5 PM

The Zoom links for the Reading and Talking Club are emailed to learners a few days before each Club. There is no Talking Club in December.

We hope more learners join us! Please look out for the invitations.

Remembering Ike E. for Dyslexia Month

PSC had a longtime learner with dyslexia named Ike. He passed away in 2023. He was a **marvelous poet**. His poems **prove** that you don't have to be good at spelling or reading to be a very good writer.

The Night Angel

by Ike E.

I'm in the hospital for
Physical Rehab
I have a lot of **aides** that come in
And help me that are angels
And then there's HILDA
The night **angel**
She comes in and **goes**
Out of her way to help me
She'll rub my shoulders
Massage and exercise my legs
She has beautiful dark brown eyes
And a smile you can't see
Only in her eyes can you see
Her smile

Learner Tip: October is Dyslexia Awareness Month

Dyslexia is a type of learning difference. Someone with dyslexia has trouble with reading and spelling. Their brain doesn't hear individual sounds in words. The good news is that someone with dyslexia can learn to read and spell if they get special teaching. This type of teaching is called Structured Literacy. The Wilson Reading System is an example of a Structured Literacy program.

About 10-20% of people have dyslexia. It is pretty common. And many famous, successful people have dyslexia. Some people you may know who have dyslexia are Richard Branson, Cher, Whoopi Goldberg, Steve Jobs, Magic Johnson, Gavin Newsom, Charles Schwab, and Steven Spielberg. People with dyslexia **tend to be** very **creative** and more kind than the average person. They are also good **problem solvers**.

You can visit <https://tinyurl.com/learnDyslexia> to learn more. They have a self-test you can take to see if you might have dyslexia. And there are many books in the library about dyslexia. There are also books with characters who have dyslexia, such as *Fish in a Tree* by Lynda Mullaly Hunt. Check them out this October!

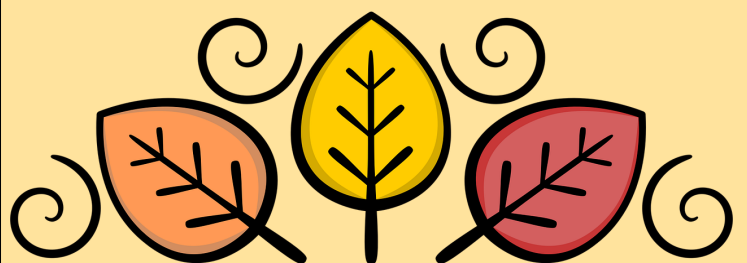
Family Literacy Corner



Thank you to all PSC families who attended this year's Fall Family Literacy Event!

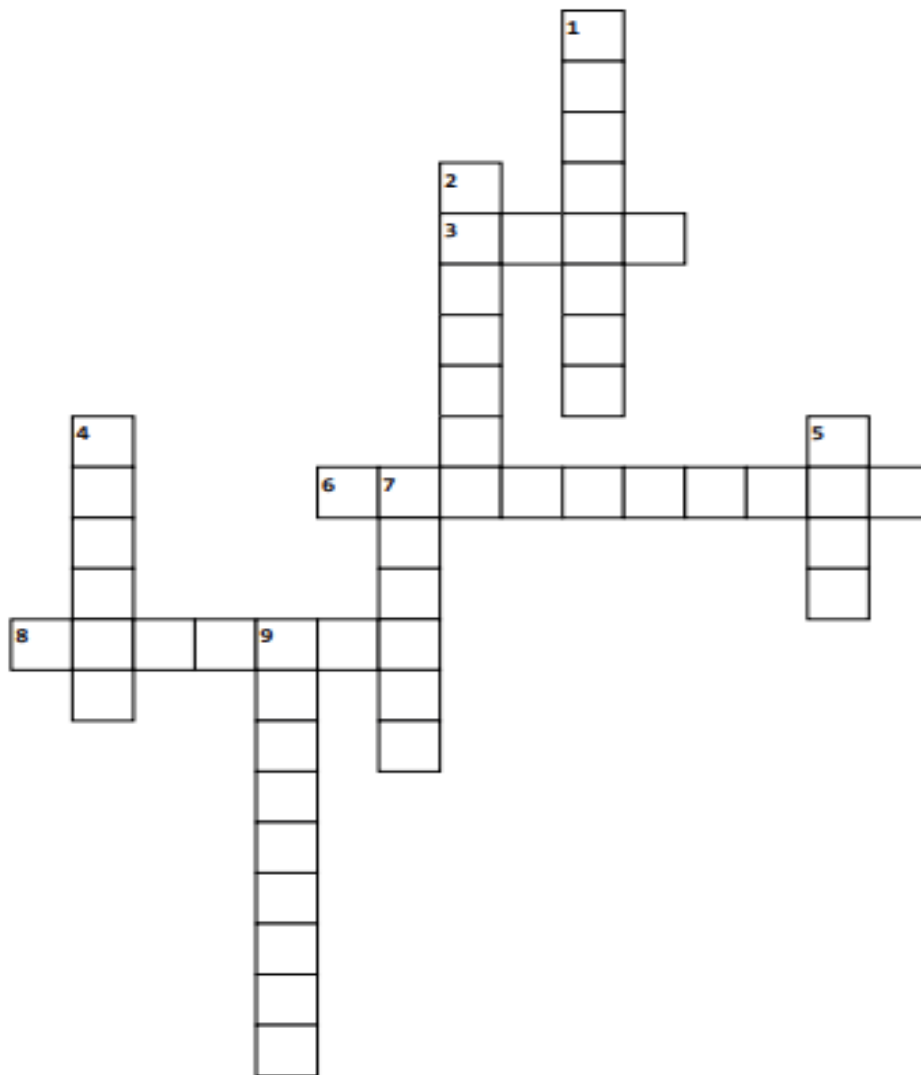
If you could not attend, don't worry! We will mail you a copy of *The Leaf Thief*, the book that was read during the event, along with some craft materials.

Please keep an eye out for the package in the mail. If you have any questions, feel free to email us at psc@library.cccounty.us.



Learner Activity: Dyslexia Crossword Puzzle

Dyslexia Awareness Month



Across

- 3. singer with dyslexia
- 6. a type of special teaching, ____ literacy
- 8. basketball player with dyslexia, Magic ____

Down

- 1. a type of learning difference
- 2. Dyslexia Awareness Month
- 4. California governor with dyslexia, Gavin ____
- 5. people with dyslexia don't ____ the individual sounds in words
- 7. about ten to ____ percent of people have dyslexia
- 9. movie director with dyslexia, Steven ____

PSC Lunch & Learn

Join us for a special “Simplify Language” training led by [Lee Shainis](#), co-founder of Intercambio and expert in clear, inclusive communication. Whether you're working with an ESL learner or a native English speaker, you'll leave with practical tips to make your spoken and written communication easier to understand.

Workshop Details:

Date: Friday, November 21

Time: 11:30 am – 1:00 pm

Format: Online (with an option to gather in person)

Ways to Participate:

Option 1: Join us in person at PSC Concord
2151 Salvio St., Suite 299

11:00 – 11:30 am: Catered lunch from Chipotle + time to connect with fellow tutors.

11:30 am – 1:00 pm: Watch the live virtual workshop together.

Option 2: Join from home via Zoom

11:30 am – 1:00 pm

Zoom link: <https://tinyurl.com/PSCSimplify>

RSVP here by November 12 if you'd like to join us at PSC Concord: <https://tinyurl.com/LunchLearnNov25>. You do not need to RSVP to join from home.

Tutor Skill Ups

Join PSC for our upcoming Skill Ups. Skill Ups are held the first Friday of most months from 12-1 pm on Zoom. Chat with your fellow tutors while learning about tutoring resources and ideas from PSC staff.

To join any Skill Up, go to <https://tinyurl.com/PSCSkillUp>. No RSVP needed.

Can't make it? You can find recordings of past sessions on America Learns. Go to the Share & Get Strategies section, click on Project Second Chance Strategies, and then search using the keyword “skill ups.”

Friday, October 3: Promoting Learner Confidence

Friday, December 5: Reading Comprehension Strategies

These Skill Ups are relevant to both ESL and Wilson tutors.



Friends of Project Second
Chance Corner

If you’re new to PSC, you may not know about **Friends of Project Second Chance (formerly PSC, Inc.)**, our 501(c)(3) nonprofit that supports PSC much like a “Friends of the Library” group. Friends helps fund needs beyond County and State budgets—providing learners with their own textbooks, Zoom accounts for tutoring pairs, tutor trainings, and more.

Each fall, Friends of PSC sends an appeal letter to volunteers and supporters. **Tax-deductible donations directly strengthen PSC’s literacy services—watch for the appeal letter in your inbox this fall!**



Welcome, New Tutors!

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| Andrew Bruorton | Jennifer Haller |
| Annette Stevenson | Jori Hayner |
| Ava Law | Kevin Safine |
| Aylesa Bullock | Lisa Tarman |
| Barbara Birch | Marci Turpin |
| Blaise Menez | Marcie Tuttle |
| Brian Corcoran | Marlene Jex |
| Chris Adair | Michell Chisham |
| Deborah Long | Mike Marion |
| Deborah Tobin | Nanci Wong |
| Elaine Baker | Nancy Dickmeyer |
| Ellen Israel | Nola Chavez |
| Gladys Villacorta | Ron MacArthur |
| Immi Allison | Susan Hurrell |
| Janet Hoy | |



Glossary

aide

a helper

angel

a very kind person

creative

able to think in new and different ways

dyslexia

a learning difference that causes trouble with reading and writing

goes out of her way

does more than is necessary (in a nice way)

hosting

being the leader and organizer of a party or event

in addition to

and also

marvelous

very wonderful or great

physical rehab

exercise to get better after an injury



poet

a writer of poems

problem solvers

people who are good at finding answers to difficult problems

prove

show to be true

tend to be

are often

Toastmasters

a national organization that has local clubs that help people learn public speaking skills

Answers to Learner Activity, page 5.

